

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 24 of 1876.]

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 10th June 1876.

THE *Sádháraní*, of the 28th May, has the following in its opening editorial:—"Indications of clemency are not wanting in the Indian Penal Code. The maxim is written, as it were, in almost every line of the British Criminal Code, and almost daily enunciated by all judicial officers, that 'it is better that a hundred guilty men should escape, than that one innocent person should suffer.' This, indeed, reminds us of the days of the ancient Aryans, and accounts for our partiality towards the British criminal laws. On many an occasion have we been terrified and moved by the exhibition of British power; but the broad liberality of the Penal Code has as often assured and comforted us. But unfortunately we do not know why the Government seem to us to be now making their criminal laws increasingly rigorous. A few random cases in the mofussil would not matter much; but when the High Court itself gives its sanction to such rigorous legislation we are extremely disappointed."

SADHARANI,  
May 28th, 1876.

The writer then gives a detailed account of the case of Ishwara Chandra Dás of Rajshahye, who was recently tried by the Sessions Judge of that district on a charge of murdering his wife, and sentenced to transportation. An appeal was made, but the High Court confirmed the decision of the Judge. The whole case is so full of inconsistencies and improbabilities, that he beseeches Sir Richard Temple to call for the papers and save the accused from the effects of a wrong decision.

2. We take the following from an article in the same paper on the "House Cess":—"The villages have no municipalities at present, nor are likely to have any. They have, however, what are called unions, whose business is performed by Panchayets consisting of members chosen from each village. But owing to the villages being not adjacent to each other, the Panchayets seldom meet in one place—nay, the members are, in some cases, not generally aware what villages are comprehended in the union. What wonder, then, that the work, done under such circumstances, should be fraught with injustice and oppression? The Magistrate may desire to impose a new cess, which may be regarded as a portion of the road cess. The Panchayets are written to, and from their places, in their own shops or cottages, they assess the villagers according to their pleasure, and forward to the Magistrate an estimate of the sum that may be raised in this way; the assesses remaining all the while in perfect ignorance of what is thus going on. The cess is paid, for it is the order of Government, and no objections may be raised against it. In this way are cesses imposed and levied in villages. The petty shopkeepers and idle men of a village are generally appointed members of the Panchayet. There are few educated and intelligent men found in a village, and even these do not generally

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reside there. There is again the rule, that none should be appointed to the Punchayet of a village except those who are its permanent residents; so that the only people available are the shopkeepers and those who have nothing to do. The punchayets do not meet together; of the members, one only is entrusted with the execution of the duties, while the others engage in their own private business. Not a few illegal acts are thus perpetrated, owing to their inexperience and indifference.

The Chowkeedars employed by a village union have salaries appointed them, instead of being supported by *chákrán* lands. The Chowkeedaree tax is fixed and levied by the Punchayet; and in not a few villages the inhabitants are obliged to pay the road cess, house cess, and many other imposts, besides the Chowkeedaree tax. This presses heavily on them. Agriculturists, laborers, or tradesmen, all pay the Chowkeedaree tax and the road cess. What is, then, the use of the house cess, when these two are sufficient for all purposes of maintaining peace and constructing roads? The amount of house cess is now fixed according to the valuation of a house. In making the valuation, no consideration is bestowed on the fact that a house in the mofussil would fetch a smaller price than one in the city. Unlike the road cess and the Chowkeedaree tax, which are collected by the zemindars, the house cess is fixed and collected by assessors appointed by Government, who collect the whole of the amount in one or two days every half-year. They do not go round for payment a second time; those who have failed to pay at first, must go to the assessors and pay them. This is felt as a serious grievance by the villagers. The attention of the District Magistrate is invited to this matter.

SADHABANI,  
May 28th, 1876.

3. A correspondent of the same paper dwells on the need of constructing a road from Satkhira to Sumlia. In this village, as well as in those of Sarsa, Dhandia, Jaynagar, Khettrapara, Kashipore, and others on the Kabatakha, there are many boys, but no schools; diseases prevail, but no medical treatment is available; taxes are levied, but justice is not properly administered; there is plenty of news, but there are no newspapers; there is a police, but thieves are not detected; and there is a road cess levied on the inhabitants, but no roads are constructed. These villages are from ten to twelve miles distant from Satkhira, which is the principal station of a sub-division, to which hundreds of persons are daily obliged to resort, and this distance is accomplished partly by walking and partly by swimming. Not to speak of the rainy season, at other times also the roads are flooded with river water during the tides. Thanks to the Road-cess Committee of the 24-Pergunnahs, while thousands have been sanctioned for a road from Baraset to Mahishmári, the need of a road from Satkhira to Sumlia has not been even once thought of.

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4. In its columns of news, the same paper asks the authorities to enquire into the truth of the following:—Three European engineers have, for some days past, pitched their tents in the village of Kástadaha in the district of Nuddea, whence the Darjeeling Railway line is proposed to commence. When surveying the neighbouring village of Chittalia, the house of a cultivator happening to impede the course of their chain they immediately ordered it to be pulled down. The order was promptly executed. The poor man, thus all of a sudden rendered houseless, accompanied by his family, took shelter in a neighbour's house.

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5. We give *in extenso* the following letter, communicated to the same paper, and entitled the "Zemindar's gomashtha":—In the village of Chandpore, under the Diamond Harbour sub-division, the zemindar, Baboo



Táriní Chandra Basu, possesses talook, No. 34. Bihári Lál Sarkár was the gomashtha of the local cutcherry. In a house about four or five *rashis* (about 500 feet) distant from it, lives Gopal Chandra Basu, a minor, born of respectable parents. There is no other male member besides Gopal in that house. The gomashtha, uninvited, began to take his daily meals there. Heaven knows what causes had been at work. But one night in Ashar last (15th June to 15th July) he secretly abducted Gopal's mother, and removed her in a carriage to Calcutta, and there kept her concealed. On the following morning Gopal's grandmother, with tears in her eyes, communicated the news to the villagers; and at their instigation the old woman was with difficulty persuaded to report the matter at Thanthania in Calcutta, and to inform the zemindar. We do not know what came of all this. Possibly it was never brought to the notice of Táriní Baboo; for he is an aged, noble, and conscientious person, and would doubtless have adopted efficient measures at once. The gomashtha, however, to the no small relief of the inhabitants, has not returned. But the old woman, having lost caste by this affair, has ever since remained excommunicated. In December last, the same Bihári and Dewan Hari Das Mittra were appointed, not to the Chandpore, but the Harnidanga *cutcherry* of the same talook. Bihári, with what motive is not known, has practised fearful oppressions on a neighbouring ryot named Jayá Chátni. Encouraged by a few inhabitants of the place, Jayá laid a charge of assault against him in the criminal court of the Diamond Harbour sub-division. But the zemindar, more especially the dewan, is exceedingly powerful. The poor ryots in consequence sided with him. Who would give evidence in favor of Jayá? Who had more heads than one, that he could afford to lose it? The case was thus dismissed for want of proof. A suit for arrears of rent was now instituted against Jayá, while another for recovering a loan was brought against him by Hanuman Singh, the durwan of the *cutcherry*. Both claims were clearly proved by means of the *paiks*, *tainaths*, and other adherents of the zemindar, and a decree was obtained; and now who was to protect Jayá? He met difficulties on all sides. At last, finding no other resource, the sorely perplexed cultivator saved himself by selling the honor of his daughter, and setting her in Baishakh last to gratify the Baboos. But what has he gained even by that? The decree has not been yet given up. The Baboos are gratifying their wicked lust, while they have simply stayed for a while the fall of the up-lifted rod.

6. In reviewing the administrations of Sir W. Grey and Sir George Campbell, and comparing them with the rule of Sir Richard Temple, the *Suhrid*, of the 30th May, writes the following:—We shall now consider whether we are happy under the present administration. Sir Richard Temple was appointed to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal when the famine was at its highest, and the arbitrary measures of Sir George Campbell were extremely harassing to the people. The accession of Sir Richard Temple, the author of the income tax, was naturally regarded with uneasiness; and it was feared that he would but open afresh the wounds inflicted by his predecessor. But the vetoing of Sir George Campbell's Municipal Bill by the Government of India, and the tour which Sir Richard undertook through the distressed localities, considerably lessened our fears. What is chiefly to be regretted under the present administration is the Government withholding official information from the Press. If His Honor were but as a machine, as Sir W. Grey, or a despotic and self-conceited person, the editors might have remained content. But he is neither of these. His

SUHRID,  
May 30th, 1876.



public acts are the results of his own convictions and observation, and are in conformity with the public opinion of the country. While, on the one hand, he does not regard the British Indian Association as an authority, he does not, on the other, like Sir George Campbell, look upon it solely as a sham. The editors of newspapers are neither dreaded nor looked down upon. He is always ready to welcome what is good and true. It may be easily conjectured that extensive travels have made him thoroughly acquainted with the country. Unlike his two immediate predecessors, he is not an advocate of punishment, and is always anxious to substitute a generous for a cruel treatment. The readers may now well judge whether we are happy under Sir Richard's administration. The people have, however, been somewhat surprised to notice that, with all its objectionable parts, he has adopted and passed his predecessor's Municipal Bill.

HINDU RANJIKA,  
May 31st, 1876.

7. In continuation of an article on the administration of civil justice, the *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 31st May, observes that the appointments to the Subordinate Judgeships are not judiciously made at the present time. No particular care seems to be taken to ascertain whether the first class moonsifs, who are generally promoted to the Subordinate Judgeships, really possess the necessary qualifications.

HINDU RANJIKA.

8. The same paper directs the attention of the authorities to the inconvenience the public are put to from the *mánjis* of the several ferries in the country refusing to row over the passengers without receiving something besides the prescribed toll. The Magistrate of Rajshahye will do well to inquire whether this is not the case at the Kadálíkatí ferry on the Pudma.

HINDU RANJIKA.

9. The same paper considers, that it is yet premature to ask whether Lord Lytton will be a friend or an enemy to native progress. So far as is known of him, he is a conscientious person; and it may be expected that the grand aim of his administration will be to do good to his subjects. But as Anglo-Indian opinion is divided on the subject of native advancement, and as both parties, the friends and the enemies of natives, are equally composed of influential men, it is difficult to predict what the policy of the new Viceroy will be. It is, however, feared that to a large extent he will follow the policy that may be laid down by the Secretary of State, or he will lose the prestige of his position.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
June 1st, 1876.

10. In its opening article, the *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 1st June, writes that the English, who in their own country defend their liberty at the expense of even their lives, become, as it were, quite different beings as soon as they come to India. They do not hesitate to trample upon the liberties of the natives, which, in their own case, they value so much. Many respectable men of this country suffer fearful oppression and insults at their hands, instances of which may be easily cited. The case of a pleader in Cachar, and especially that of Baboo Laul Chand Chowdhari in Chittagong, affords sufficiently clear proofs. Our Government has surely done a great evil by having entrusted the Magistrates with almost unlimited power, most of whom do not feel the least compunction in making a despotic use of it, which consequently gives birth to feelings of dislike and contempt towards the nation to which our rulers belong.

BHARAT MIHIR.

11. In another article, headed the "Present state of England," the same paper says that at a time when the Russians are making gradual advances towards the frontiers of Hindustan; when the state of the British navy, which has been so long the chief source of national glory, has become extremely miserable; and when the powerful name of the English army has



ceased to excite fear in the minds of the enemies, Mr. Disraeli has given ample proof of his want of foresight by procuring for the Queen the title of "Empress of India." Strong objections were made, but he did not heed them. If he really thought that the assumption of this new title would inspire Russia with fear, and stop its further progress in the direction of India, undoubtedly he has fallen into a mighty and serious mistake. The Russians appear to be superior to the English in cunning and skill. The English are weak in Europe; but they show all their might and courage in Asia, where they have exhibited their highest military abilities by being victorious in the Abyssinian war, by taking some forts in Bhootan, by driving the Looshais from their habitations, and by deposing Mulhar Rao Guicowar.

12. Adverting to the subject of Mofussil Post-offices, the same paper says, that the condition of a post-master in the mofussil is extremely miserable. He has to do most of the duties of a subordinate post-office, has to seal the letters with his own hands, and sometimes even to do the work of the delivery peon. Besides these, he has to fill up ten or twenty forms, and to write three or four letters every day. He does so much work without obtaining any adequate remuneration, and often denying himself every comfort. We beseech our rulers in each case to allow an assistant on a salary of not more than Rs. 15 a month. The expense will be but small compared with the large income derived from a subordinate post-office, and will afford every facility for the good and proper management of its various duties; as it will save the poor post-master from the numberless troubles and difficulties to which he is now subjected. Besides this, it will be productive of another very good result, namely, it will encourage many competent men to desire the post; who, on account of the manifold duties and toils, and the stringent leave rules of the Postal Department, are not now disposed to enter it.

BHARAT MIHIE,  
June 1st, 1876.

13. A correspondent of the same paper, writing on the case of Baboo Laul Chand Chowdhari, a member of the municipality of Chittagong, says that the Baboo has had to spend Rs. 5,500 in order to come out successfully from the difficulties he was put to by Mr. Kirkwood, the District Magistrate. Such a large sum spent for nothing, and bringing such unendurable troubles and hardships on one who was not guilty of any offence, clearly testify to the evil and pernicious result of the unlimited power given into the hands of District Magistrates. We hope that Government will particularly attend to such terrible acts of oppression; otherwise we shall be constrained to say, that the great failing of the British Government is that it overlooks the faults of its own countrymen.

BHARAT MIHIE.

14. In its opening article, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 1st June, writes that Mr. Disraeli has become involved in great difficulty in connection with the Queen's new title. The present Prime Minister would possibly have to meet with disgrace and insults, and even to lose his high position, if he were not supported by the natives of India on this occasion. But at the time of his prosperity, and at the opening of Parliament every year, he does not condescend even to place the name of India in the Royal speech. However, if the difficulty of Mr. Disraeli be real, and if the address, sent by the Indian League to the Queen, prove of any use to him, the people of this country would be enabled to exercise some influence on the administration. India is not a petty kingdom: it is one of the greatest and wealthiest countries on the face of the earth; and England has become great by the possession of it. Here lies the source of England's wealth. The inhabitants of India are remarkably intelligent, and no nation on earth has made such progress within such a

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
June 1st, 1876.



short period as they have done; still we have no influence in England. We might, however, derive some, if we would but support the Prime Minister in his present difficulty. The relation which India bears to England, and the help which the latter derives from the former, which is such an extensive empire, would daily enhance the influence, if we could but once obtain it, over England.

AMBITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
June 1st, 1876.

15. Adverting to the sudden release of a prisoner, a respectable man of the name of Vizia Ráma, Rao Bahadur, after a confinement of forty years in a jail at Vellore in Madras, the same paper remarks that Lord Napier, being on a visit to Vellore, saw the prisoner, and, perceiving he was ill, took pity on him and asked the cause of his confinement; on receiving no satisfactory reply, he enquired into the matter more fully, and found that the man was imprisoned without any charge against him. He at once released the prisoner, who must otherwise have continued to remain in confinement up to the day of his death; and the oppressions committed on him would probably have been kept concealed for ever. Many people in this country suffer oppressions of the like nature, and such unjust acts of the British Government have not yet been brought to an end. It is true that the Rajahs of Soosungu Durgapur and Viznir have not been imprisoned like the Rao Bahadur, still their properties have been most unjustly appropriated by Government.

HINDU HITOISHINI,  
June 3rd, 1876.

16. In its opening article, the *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 3rd June, writes thus:—We have, in a former issue, published various particulars about the taking of the Garo hills, during the administration of Lord Mayo, from the hands of the Rajah of Soosungu Durgapur. The Rajah is a man of a quiet disposition, and his three brothers are not less so. All of them are firmly attached to the British Government; and the Rajah rules over his subjects very mildly; consequently we cannot understand how he came to incur the disfavor of Government. He had recourse to law in order to get back his possessions, and gained his suit; but the Government, in the mean time, passed an Act for the administration of the Garo Hills, and so dispossessed him. The decision of the Privy Council indeed established his rights to those hills; but they could not repeal the Act; and hence vast sums of money spent by the Rajah have been in vain. A petition craving for favor was made to Government, but neither Lord Mayo nor Lord Northbrook found leisure to take it into consideration; and who can say that Lord Lytton, the present Governor-General, will have time sufficient to consider it and bring it to an end? There is no ground for the apprehension that the Rajah will not be able to bring the Garos under subjection; who, it is well known, are already extremely attached to him; and hence it is not at all just to deprive him of his possessions. However, we earnestly wish that Lord Lytton will take all this into his kind consideration, and bring the matter to a most satisfactory conclusion. The public are sorry for this unjust exclusion of the Rajah from his rights. If the hills were restored to him by Lord Lytton, he would be perfectly able to keep the Garos under subjection, and the public would feel highly gratified.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

17. In another article, the same paper says that corruption and bribery still prevail on an enormous scale in the Government offices, and that no steps are taken by our rulers to put a stop to them. Even those who possess but a little power do not fail to use it; and sometimes, if necessary, do not hesitate to extort bribes, even by the application of force. We have heard of many Government officials, both high and low, who encourage this disgraceful and sinful practice in their dependents. The indifference of the



rulers to interfere in this matter is the principal cause of its prevalence. We, however, hope they will no longer remain heedless, but set themselves to check it with all diligence.

18. In another article, on the subject of the prevailing practice of cheating, the same paper says, he had long since heard that uniform weights and measures were to be introduced everywhere, but it has not been done. If the measure were carried into effect, the public would be highly benefited by it; for at present they lose and suffer much owing to different weights used in different places. Many, going abroad to some unknown parts of the country, are easily cheated by the shopkeepers; who never fail to take advantage of the different weights and measures current there, and the ignorance of the buyers. But one thing, still more injurious than this, is that though in the Penal Code there is a provision made for the punishment of those keeping short weights, yet no enquiry is made whether such weights are really kept in the shops or not. The crime deserves severe punishment, and it is therefore very desirable that our rulers should look into this matter more carefully.

HINDU HITOISHINI,  
June 3rd, 1876.

19. Adverting to the inconveniences experienced by passengers, for want of a waiting-room at the Comercolly station on the Eastern Bengal Railway, the *Grāmbartā Prakāshikā*, of the 4th June, writes that though he has repeatedly written on the subject, no attention has been paid to it. It is not at all possible that the Company, which has easily spent lakhs of rupees for the preservation of the Goalundo station, could grudge a small sum required for the erection of a small waiting-room for the accommodation of the passengers. It must have occurred purely through the negligence of the Company's servants. We also asked to have lights placed on the bridge across the river Gorai, for the prevention of accidents; and the local authorities also issued orders to that effect; but nothing has yet been done. Hence, we cannot entirely disagree with what people say about the Government, that it does not mind the inconveniences and troubles which the natives suffer. In fact, if any Englishman had to undergo any portion of the troubles which we almost daily suffer, our rulers would have surely taken efficient measures for their removal. However, we again ask the Railway Company to build a waiting-room at the Comercolly station.

GRAMBARTĀ  
PRĀKASHIKĀ,  
June 4th, 1876.

20. In an article headed "The Lieutenant-Governor and the Rent Law," the same paper remarks that among the various good acts of Sir Richard Temple, the rent law affords the best proof of his thoughtfulness. If, taking the permanent settlement of Lord Cornwallis as a model, His Honor could introduce a similar settlement between the landlord and the tenant, both the zemindars and the ryots would be entirely at ease; otherwise there is every possibility of confusion and dissatisfaction being engendered amongst them. However, we remain sure that the new rent law, as well as the various other generous acts of Sir Richard Temple, will be productive of many good results to the people of India; if they be not, like other noble laws of the British Government, confined to the Gazette only, without being carried into effect. We know that laws, which are favorable to the interests of the natives, are not duly carried out, while those prejudicial to them remain in full force.

GRAMBARTĀ  
PRĀKASHIKĀ.

21. In an article headed "the Magistrate-Chairman," the same paper observes:—At the time when natives were invited to take a share in the administration of their own affairs as members of a municipality or otherwise, we remarked that so long as a Magistrate possessed of unlimited power

GRAMBARTĀ  
PRĀKASHIKĀ.



was set to preside over them, the term self-government would simply be a misnomer. Our rulers did not then give heed to our remarks; but, on the other hand, enhanced the power of the Magistrates; who became more arbitrary, and began to commit more severe oppressions than before. The late case of Baboo Laul Chand Chowdhari, a member of the municipality of Chittagong, sufficiently attests the truth of the above. It is a matter of doubt, whether even a most oppressive man behaves so unjustly and rudely towards a common coolie, as Mr. Kirkwood, the Magistrate of Chittagong, has done towards the Baboo. From the conduct of such men as he, a justly unfavorable impression is formed in the minds of the natives; their feelings of loyalty and affection towards the British Government become lessened in intensity, and the fair fame of the English nation suffers much. But it is a matter of great regret, that the native newspapers are generally taken to task for the spread of disaffection towards the Government, while the chief cause is found in the rude and illegal conduct of their worthless and rash officers. Such hot-tempered and jealous men as Mr. Kirkwood are totally unfit for the duties of a judicial officer; and Government ought to preserve its good name by inflicting on them due punishments.

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
June 4th, 1876.

22. The same paper, in another article, says that a mooktear of a certain village fell into disputes, on some private grounds, with a zemindar owning factories. As the profession of the former was law, so he resorted to it; but he did not know that in those parts of the country force was the law. The zemindar plundered his house, deprived him of his property, and at last forced him to leave his home. He came back after a short period to his village, paid something to the zemindar, and thus was permitted to reside in his house, but as a slave to the factory. When these matters are kept concealed even by such an influential man as a mooktear, it is not to be expected that the common peasants will have courage enough to reveal the oppressions committed on them. Hence, we feel the need of employing secret spies to enquire into such measures, and detect the oppressors.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
June 2nd, 1876.

23. In the relative position of the Anglo-Indians and Natives at the present time, the *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 2nd June, notices a similarity to the relations which in former days subsisted between the Brahmins and the Sudras of Hindu society. The comparison may be carried yet further by regarding the civilians as the Koolins. The same assumed superiority over the Sudras, and the unwillingness to hold them as their equals, which characterized the old Brahmins, are now found in the behaviour of the civilians towards the natives of the country. The case of Mr. Kirkwood and Baboo Laul Chand Chowdhari of Chittagong affords an illustration of this.

PRATIKAR,  
June 2nd, 1876.

24. The *Pratikár*, of the 2nd June, writes a highly eulogistic article on Mr. Mackenzie, the Magistrate of Moorshedabad, for his habitual courtesy, impartiality, and sympathy with the people. He always attends to their complaints, and is unwearied in his endeavours to benefit them. Mrs. Mackenzie has also become immensely popular by her piety and generosity.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
June 5th, 1876.

25. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 5th June, makes the following remarks, in reference to the minute of the Lieutenant-Governor on "Intemperance among the Sonthals":—Sir Richard Temple is doubtless right in thinking that the adoption of any rigorous measures to check this evil will be of no avail—nay, may induce extremely unpleasant consequences. His Honor has therefore asked the local officers to endeavour to convince, by arguments and promises of reward, the headmen of the



evil effects of intemperance, and through them to influence the body of the people. Not a few evil practices of society, indeed, may be encountered by the efforts of its leading men; but these efforts, to be successful, must be united and persistent; and we do not see how this could be possible among a people uncivilized and uneducated as the Sonthals. Considering also the scant measure of success which has attended even the persistent and combined efforts of the several Temperance Societies in England during the last few years, our doubts become stronger than ever. The Lieutenant-Governor suggests the spread of education as a remedy; but we are precluded even from that hope by the sad spectacle of Bengal, where intemperance has kept pace with the spread of education.

26. The same paper thus writes, in an editorial headed "That old story again":—A European kills a native; a trial takes place; ample evidence is obtained; with great care a select English jury is appointed, and they declare that the deceased had a diseased spleen or liver, or that while committing the crime, the accused's mind was not in a sound state. This ridiculous system of trial has become proverbial in India. We had expected to see an end of this disgraceful practice ere long, but it still continues. The writer then gives an account of the trial of Private Mc'Garth in the Allahabad High Court.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
June 5th, 1876.

The Anglo-Indians are frequently said to express regret that natives are not more attached to them. But does attachment come of itself? Does it grow, when one has no good qualities to inspire it? The hearts of the people are alienated from Government by such unjust acts. If a person thus escapes punishment, after deliberately and in broad daylight murdering three innocent natives, what is the good of our living in this country? We indeed know that the British Government loves its subjects; the Government of India has, at least, manifested this love towards its European subjects. The Guicowar was deposed for having attempted to poison Colonel Phayre; while China is sorely troubled for the murder of Mr. Margary; and the inhabitants of Perak have been punished for murdering Mr. Birch. But why is not this love shown towards the unfortunate natives of India? Does it behove Government to overlook the murder of three natives? It is a matter of exceeding regret, that the acts performed by Government are occasionally marked by partiality. A serious charge was brought against Mr. Levien, the Judge of Rungpore. There was a private trial. A Judge of the High Court went to the spot; enquiries were made in private; and the charge being fully proved, Mr. Levien was permitted to retire from the service with a handsome pension. But the same consideration was not shewn towards a Native civilian. His offence was hardly known when it was proclaimed, as it were, with a trumpet blast. A commission was appointed to try him. Failing to obtain competent legal advice, he asked to be allowed the services of the Government Pleader. That was refused, and he was dismissed from the service with a scanty compassionate allowance. It is this invidious partiality that grieves the hearts of the natives. Where shall we find justice, when we do not find it at the hands of a Government, proud of its civilization and Christianity? We beseech the authorities to call for the papers of this case, and use means for preventing a similar miscarriage of justice in future.

27. The same paper writes the following in an article, entitled the "Loyalty of the Indian League":—What is the secret object of this League? We have heard that when the rite of *suttee* was in force, many a woman, whose whole life was unchaste, in her old age resorted to this expedient

SOMA PRAKASH.



to disarm all censure. We do not know whether we should amuse ourselves with this spectacle of their gushing and overflowing loyalty, or pity them the more for it. Our contemporary of the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, after a long career of persistent opposition to Government, has all of a sudden, through the instrumentality of the League, become an intensely loyal person. We, however, ask whether we are justified, on account of Her Majesty's assuming the new title, in rejoicing to such a degree. It should be at the outset remarked, that if any Royal personage has at all any title to receive the loyalty and devotion of a people, decidedly Her Majesty has it. Her noble disposition, courtesy, piety, and gentleness, are really charming. Her deeds are exemplary. Loyalty to her person is fully justifiable, as indeed is the loyalty towards the Government one lives under. But we may ask whether the assumption of the new title is desirable. Though we fully admit that the Government of India is a despotism and has imperial power, still the need of proclaiming it does not to us seem desirable. Instances crop up, almost every day, of invidious distinction made by the courts of justice between a Native and an Anglo-Indian, but is it desirable to have the fact of this distinction proclaimed by law? So, while continuing to be simply the "Queen" in great Britain and other dependencies, is it desirable to see her an "Empress" in India only? And moreover, in the face of such independent kingdoms as Nepal, does it behove her to style herself the "Empress" of India? Native princes will no longer be regarded or addressed as equals: and this is worth consideration.

*SAHACHAR*,  
June 5th, 1876.

28. The *Sahachar*, of the 5th June, writes a lengthy editorial on the oppressions practised on the people by the Magistrates, compares their condition under the Mahomedan rule with that at the present time, and beseeches all right-minded Englishmen, the Parliament, and Her Majesty to take the matter into their kind consideration. As instances of magisterial oppressions, are mentioned the cases of Mr. Kirkwood and Laul Chand Chowdhuri of Chittagong; of Mr. Worsley and Sítánáth Mookerjee of Mozufferpore; of Mr. Wilkinson of Patna; and as an instance of the cruelties perpetrated by the planters, the recent case of Mr. Inglis, the friend of the Dacca Commissioner, is noticed.

We extract the following passage from the editorial:—Look at the doings of the indigo and tea-planters, how Christians, and Englishmen as they are, and with all their Western civilization, treat the poor and helpless native subjects; you will be able to realize to yourselves what oppression is, and whether it has any place in the heart of an Englishman. Look at the rulers, and you will perceive whether partiality does not constitute an inseparable portion of their hearts, or whether they can distinguish between black and white. Contact with the Christian missionaries will teach you what intolerance and bigotry are; and an acquaintance with British merchants will give you an idea of self-seeking and race partiality. From the Secretary of State down to the Inspector of Police, observe their doings, and you will perceive a living form of despotism.

*SULABHA SAMACHAR*,  
June 6th, 1876.

29. In a letter to the *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 6th June, purporting to have been written by some inhabitants of Jámna, a village in the Burdwan district, the writers ask Government to take prompt notice of the frequent occurrence of robberies attended with murder in the adjacent fields.

*URDU GUIDE*,  
May 28th, 1876.

30. An anonymous correspondent of the *Urdu Guide* writes from Dacca, under date the 28th May, as follows:—Mr. G. C. Garret, Judge of Dacca, is acknowledged by all to be a very kind, compassionate, and learned



man; but unfortunately such good and eminent qualities as these do not appear in the present instance to be productive of any good, but rather the contrary, inasmuch as he does not exercise a wholesome check on his subordinate officers and their official business, nor does he inspire in them the awe and respect due to his position. The former Subordinate Judge, Baboo Bhúpati Ráya, was a man of a different stamp, and one who managed to keep the moonsifs in the mofussil under proper control.

31. Referring to a complaint, made on the 18th of May last, by one *Mukunda Pátak*, late pupil teacher of the Durbhunga Division Normal School, to the effect that his brother had not been paid his stipend for six months by the Sub-Inspector of *Madhubani*, the editor of the *Behár Bandhu* thus remarks:—We do not know what work the senior officers of the Educational Department are about, that has impeded the progress of this zillah; or is it the case that other zillahs are in the same condition as this one, or is Durbhunga the only one?

BEHAR BANDHU,  
May 31st, 1876.

32. The Province of Behar may *then* be said to have improved when every inhabitant here becomes acquainted with the Nagri character, and when books are published in good and simple Hindi. Such a day may well be anticipated, since Government is exerting itself to that end, and it only remains for the people to sustain these efforts. Neither the language nor character is difficult of acquirement.

BEHAR BANDHU.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 10th June 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the  
10th June 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bhárat Shramjibí" ...	Baráhanagar ...	Monthly ...	Chaitra, 1282 B. S.
2	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	4th May 1876.
3	"Burrisal Bártábaha" ...	Burrisal ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
4	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	28th ditto.
5	"Suhrid" ...	Muktágáchá, Mymensing ...	Ditto ...	30th ditto.
6	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rájshahye ...	Ditto ...	31st ditto.
7	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensing ...	Ditto ...	1st June 1876.
8	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	1st ditto.
9	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	2nd ditto.
10	"Moorshedabad Patriká" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	2nd ditto.
11	"Pratikár" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	2nd ditto.
12	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	3rd ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	3rd ditto.
14	"Howrah Hitakarí" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	28th May and 4th June 1876.
15	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	5th June 1876.
16	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
17	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
18	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-Weekly ...	1st, 5th, & 8th June 1876.
19	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	30th May to 7th June 1876.
20	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	3rd to 8th June 1876.
21	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi) ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	Weekly ...	31st May 1876.
22	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	3rd June 1876.
23	"Jám-Jehán-numá" (in Persian) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.



